

I am completely against this merger. As a former AT&T Wireless and T-Mobile customer, I believe I can backup why I believe this is bad for America.

We have such limited competition in regards to the cellphone industry and mobile broadband plans, because the problems with finite spectrum. Their simply isn't enough for 100% true capitalism to exist in this industry, which is exactly why the FCC exist to prevent anti-trust and limited competition from becoming a problem.

T-Mobile is the smallest of the 4 major carriers, by a long shot, but is larger than most of the rural carriers in the nation put together. T-Mobile runs on the 900mhz spectrum and as a result doesn't offer the best signal penetration or further signal per tower, but does cover most of America even if it has to to roam and use the slow GPRS signal at times.

T-Mobile knows this and stays in the game by offering the most competitive pricing of cellphone plans compared to the other 3 carriers. They are also the only carrier who offers a cheaper rate on cellphone plans, if you actually already own your own phone. Which honestly all cellphone providers should do, other carriers charge you the same rate to use their network, whether you are locked into a 2-yr contract with a subsidized phone (which their rate plans is how they make up for the cost) or whether you already own your phone outright, which then only makes since to enter into a 2-yr contract with them to make the most of your investment. T-Mobile offers the most options in the aspect by allowing you to pay the subsidized rate or by just paying simply to use their network with your own phone.

T-Mobile is also the only other viable GSM carrier, which allows people fleeing from AT&T to use most of their phones on T-Mobile's network, which while these consumers won't have 3G speeds because of different HSDPA frequencies, they will have 2G/EDGE which is good enough for some, and no different to those who only use their phones for talking and texting.

T-Mobile was also the first carrier to experiment and take a chance on the Android operating system, while in contrast AT&T was the last of the 4 carriers and AT&T cut out certain native features like (side-loading apps, which means no 3rd party apps, or even apps from Amazon.com's app store., they are the only carrier doing this.) cutting out the native tethering feature (while charging users to use from a pool of data that they already pay for), and offering phones like the Atrix which they claimed was 4G but didn't tell anyone that HSUPA was disabled until a claim was filed to the BBB.

AT&T offers limited data packages for smartphones such as the Data Plus plan, which is \$15 for 200MB (where if you go over they will charge you another \$15 and spot you another 200MB for each time you go over). AT&T also offers the Data Pro plan which is \$25 for 2GB (2,000 MB, where if you go over it is \$10 per GB) just \$5 shy of their previous unlimited data plan that they abolished.

To give you an idea how bad the first plan is. If I use 2GB worth of data (the same amount of data the data pro plan offers for \$25 a month). I would pay \$15 for data of my smartphone for that phone line and then I would pay \$135 in fees, which totals to \$150 for data that month. Keep in mind that this would be per line and per phone for that goes over on the account, on top of the monthly access fee and the whatever plan you chose for talking and texting.

Now keep in mind that T-Mobile offers unlimited data (which their 4G HSDPA+ network is actually faster than AT&T's for now), but they will throttle your speed if you go over 5GB, however you will not incur any overage fees, which is an understandable fair access policy without hurting the consumer with hard to understand fees. Now let us look at using 5GB with the data plus plan on AT&T's network. That would be \$15 + \$360 (fees) = \$375 per line, against, this is not including your plan rates.

This is outrageous, especially considering that AT&T previously offered unlimited data with no overage fees for \$30 a month (just \$5 more than the 2GB plan) less than a year ago, which is around the same price that the other 3 major carriers still sell their unlimited plan for currently. AT&T is the only carrier at this time selling tiered data and not a bargain price, but with the likely hood you will pay fees. Anyone can see that the disparity between 200MB and 2,000MB is huge while the price points aren't, but the fees are. This is just one example of how AT&T preys on the ignorant.

AT&T has more spectrum, more problems, and fewer customers than Verizon (the number one provider in America) for a reason. I could also go and talk about how AT&T over charged me, claimed they couldn't credit me, but after 6 phone calls, I spoke with a manager and got things sorted out, but customer support (which T-Mobile does have the best) shouldn't be the focus of the FCC.

This deal would go to the heart of anti-competition with AT&T being the most deceptive and problematic of the four major carriers.

T-Mobile has a right to be sold, but to allow the only other GSM carrier to buyout the cheapest carrier and later impose it's currently plans, would be bad for everyone. I know that I am only one of many, but if T-Mobile must be sold, let it be sold to Sprint who is the 3rd largest carrier (which currently offer the best cell phone contract plans) and barely has over half the customers that AT&T/Verizon have. But the better idea would probably be to allow a portion to be sold to Sprint and the majority of the spectrum and towers/access points be sold to various rural carriers (even though most rural carriers in America are CDMA like Sprint/Verizon).